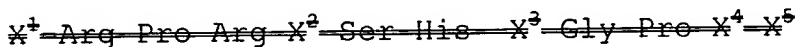


In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-28 to read as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A peptide having ~~represented by the formula:~~



~~wherein X¹ represents a hydrogen atom or an amino acid residue comprising 1 to 25 amino acids each of which, whether identical or not, has a side chain which may be substituted, or a peptide chain;~~

~~X² represents a neutral amino acid residue having a side chain which may be substituted;~~

~~X³ represents a neutral amino acid residue having a side chain which may be substituted, an aromatic amino acid residue having a side chain which may be substituted or a basic amino acid residue having a side chain which may be substituted;~~

~~X⁴ represents a bond or a neutral or aromatic amino acid residue having a side chain which may be substituted;~~

~~X⁵ represents ⊕ an amino acid residue having a side chain which may be substituted or an amino acid derivative with the C terminal carboxyl group reduced to a hydroxymethyl group or a formyl group, ⊕ a hydroxyl group or ⊕ a dipeptide chain comprising an amino acid residue having a side chain which may be substituted and an amino acid residue having a side chain which may be substituted, bound together, or a peptide derivative with the C terminal carboxyl group reduced to a hydroxymethyl group or a formyl group; and a side chain in each amino acid residue in Arg-Pro-Arg, Ser-His or Gly-Pro in the formula may be substituted;~~

~~except the case where X² represents Leu, X³ represents Lys, X⁴ represents Met, X⁵ represents ⊕ Pro or ⊕ Pro-Phe, and Arg-Pro-Arg in the formula represents unsubstituted Arg-Pro-Arg,~~

~~Ser His represents unsubstituted Ser His, and Gly Pro represents unsubstituted Gly Pro, or an ester thereof, or a salt thereof~~

~~and said peptide has~~ an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3-21, 25 and 28-40.

2. - 25. (CANCELED)

26. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A pharmaceutical containing a peptide, as claimed in claim 1, or an ester thereof or a salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

27. (CANCELED)

28. (ORIGINAL) A pharmaceutical as claimed in claim 26 which is an agonist of a protein containing an amino acid sequence shown by Sequence ID No.:26 or a salt thereof.